of Orissa get inundated during the rainy season. The Mitra Commission had recommended certain measures for de-silting of the Chilka mouth.

Regularly desilting of the mouth is absolutely necessary in view of the littoral drift in the Bay of Bengal and the washing away of surface soil into chilka from the Eastern Ghat mountains.

It is not known as to what action has been taken by the coastal Protection and Development Advisory Committee for desilting of the Chilka mouth.

The Ministry of Water Resources may take steps for establishment of a permanent Engineering Wing at Arakha Kula under Puri district of Orissa for regular desilting measures.

I, request the Central Government to look i into it.

(vi) Need to develop minor ports in Tamil Nadu and also to set up a minor port in Mahabalipuram

SHRI K. PARASURAMAN (Chengalpatu) : Sir, we have a long coastal borderline having natural and situational advantages for establishment and provision of more facilities in the existing ports in the country. Our country has 11 major ports and 139 minor ports at present. But compared to the share of cargo-handling by both major and minor ports, it only works out to eight per cent of the total cargo-handling in the country, Out of this, Gujarat alone handles about 70 per cent through minor ports. The States of Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Orissa, Karnataka and Kerala have been planning to develop and to provide facilities in their respective minor ports in cooperation and with the help and sanction of the Union Government.

Sir, in Tamil Nadu, there is a vast coastline where conducive and advantageous conditions prevail not only for the establishment of new ports but also for development of existing minor ports. The immediate need is to develop and augment the existing minor ports to Cuddalore, Nagapattinam, Tuticorin, etc. in which the Cuddalore port itself can save Rs. 200 crore of Tamil Nadu Electricity Board in coal transportation per year.

I would also request the Central Government to consider establishment of a minor port in Mahabalipuram, which was very famous and known as Mamallapuram in Pallava dynasty in 9th and 10th centuries. Mahabalipuram was already serving as a minor port for trade purposes during Pallava dynasty and during British days.

(vii) Need to set up a low power T.V. transmitter at Ajaddhya Hill in Purulia district, West Bengal

SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO (Purulia) : About seven lakh people of Bagmundi, Balarampur, barabazar, Manbazar and Bandulon Police Station in Purulia district of West Bengal as Bengali-speaking. But they are deprived to T.V. coverage from Asonsol/Calcutta Doordarshan Kendra.

Therefore, I urge upon the Central Government to instal a low power transmission centre at Ajaddhya Hill in the district of Purulia in West Bengal.

(viii) Need to increase the amount of pension to freedom fighters

[Translation]

PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA (Samastipur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, in view of the golden jubilee of independence to expeditiously dispose of the claims of the freedom fighters a two member special audit team was constituted on the subject under a special cell in the Ministry of Home Affairs but because of not providing the staff like assistants and stenographers, the pace of disposal of claims is not that much as was expected. Those claimants who can face the difficulty of coming to Delhi and marking efforts continuously, only their files could be presented for disposal. There is a urgent need to take necessary action to make this team effective by providing it assistants and stenographers and to accelerate the pace of disposal of these files regarding their claims.

A paltry sum of Rs. 1500 per month is given to freedom fighters as a honourary pension. It would be desirable and expedient to raise the amount upto three thousand per month in this year of golden jubilee of independence.

Those freedom fighters who were in prison for at least three months or had disappeared for the same period, only they are being provided this facility and whose period of imprisonment is slightly laser then that, they have been deprived of this facility which does not seem proper. So, I request that the above amount should be in proportion to the period of their imprisonment and the amount of honourary pension should be proportionate to their period of imprisonment. It is not proper not to recosnise them as a freedom fighter whose period of imprisonment is less than three months whereas their contribution had been also significant in the freedom struggle.